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BOX PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES ELECTED/DESIGNATED OFFICE  
OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY-CHAPTER II

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

APPLICANT: Christian Rappel DOCKET NO: 112740-312

SERIAL NO: GROUP ART UNIT:

EXAMINER:

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO: PCT/DE00/00611

10 INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: 1 March 2000

INVENTION: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONICALLY  
PROCESSING PURCHASING AND SALES  
TRANSACTIONS15 Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified International Application before entry  
into the National stage before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 35  
U.S.C. §371 as follows:

**In the Specification:**

Please replace the Specification of the present application, including the  
Abstract, with the following Substitute Specification:

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## SPECIFICATION

## TITLE OF THE INVENTION

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ELECTRONICALLY  
PROCESSING PURCHASING AND SALES TRANSACTIONS

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for electronically  
processing purchasing and sales transactions, which is referred to as electronic  
commerce, using public communication networks; in particular, the Internet.